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# THE MAYORS OF THE CORPORATION OF WASHINGTON: THOMAS CARBERY.

By ALLEN C. CLARK.

(Read before the Society, March 16, 1915.)

The Mayors of Washington were strong men, well equipped for their governmental responsibility and equal to even greater. It is the highest appropriateness that the Columbia Historical Society should in its archives have biographical sketches of the Mayors, with illustrative additions as reproductions of likenesses, pictures of residences and individual correspondence.

The life sketches in the records of the Society to date are:

Robert Brent .....	by Dr. James Dudley Morgan.
Daniel Rapine	} .....
James H. Blake	
Benjamin G. Orr	
Samuel N. Smallwood	
William A. Bradley.....	by Madison Davis.
Peter Force .....	by Ainsworth R. Spofford.
John W. Maury.....	by Douglass Zevely.
William B. Magruder.....	by Robert H. Harkness.
James G. Berret.....	Autobiographically.
Sayles J. Bowen.....	by Dr. William Tindall.

Twenty men were mayors. Their names and dates of induction into offices are:

Robert Brent .....	June 1, 1802
Daniel Rapine .....	June 8, 1812
James H. Blake .....	June 14, 1813
Benjamin G. Orr .....	June 9, 1817
Samuel N. Smallwood .....	June 14, 1819
Thomas Carbery .....	June 14, 1822
Samuel N. Smallwood .....	June 14, 1824
Roger C. Weightman .....	October 4, 1824

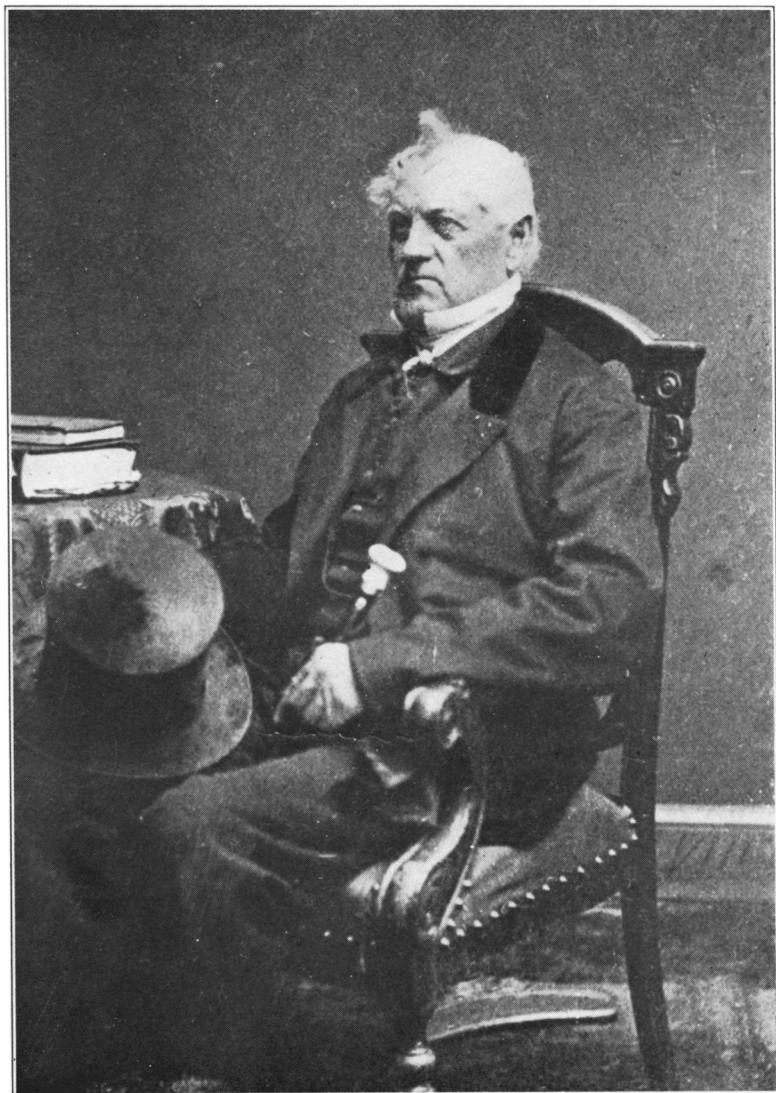
Joseph Gales, Jr. ....	June 11, 1827
John P. Van Ness .....	June 14, 1830
William A. Bradley .....	June 9, 1834
Peter Force .....	June 13, 1836
William W. Seaton .....	June 8, 1840
Walter Lenox .....	June 10, 1850
John W. Maury .....	June 14, 1852
John T. Towers .....	June 12, 1854
William B. Magruder .....	June 9, 1856
James G. Berret .....	June 14, 1858
Richard Wallach .....	August 26, 1861
Sayles J. Bowen .....	June 8, 1868
Matthew G. Emery .....	June 13, 1870

Every Mayor has a public school named in his honor except Rapine. There was a Rapine Building near the Force. The jest of a New Englander—"What kind of schools are these, force and rapine"—bore too heavily on the sensitiveness of the Commissioners and the name Rapine was taken down and another name put up in its place.

Thomas Carbery was the sixth Mayor. The American ancestor, his greatgrandfather, John Baptist Carbery, was born in Ireland about 1700. He came to America about 1730 by way of Boston, Massachusetts, and continued on to St. Mary's County, Maryland. His son, John Baptist Carbery, Thomas's grandfather, was born in that county. He married Miss Thompson, of Charles County, Maryland. Theirs was a large family.

The father, Thomas Carbery, Senior, located in or near George Town about 1805. He was a contractor and furnished the heavy timbers for ceilings and floors used in the construction of the public buildings. Of him the son says: "My father, Thomas Carbery, died in the City of Washington on the 12th of July, 1812, and in the sixty-seventh year of his age.<sup>1</sup> His whole

<sup>1</sup> His sons, Lewis and Joseph, were his administrators, Doc. 1, 546, Register of Wills.



THOMAS CARBERY, SIXTH MAYOR OF WASHINGTON.

life was marked with peculiar energy, piety and virtue. He lived and died in full communion with the Catholic Church."

The mother, Mary Asonath Carbery, died January 2, 1819, in the sixty-fourth years of her age. Their children were:

	Born.	Died.
1. Mary .....	1775	December 4, 1858
2. John Baptist .....	1777	October 5, 1803
3. Martha (Catalana) .....	1779	October 3, 1857
4. Ruth .....	February 14, 1780	May 17, 1869
5. Ann (Mattingly) .....	March 17, 1784	March 9, 1855
6. Joseph .....	1786	May 25, 1849
7. Catharine .....	July, 1789	February 22, 1880
8. Thomas .....	June 26, 1791	May 23, 1863
9. James .....	1793	April 11, 1851
10. Lewis .....	March, 1795	June 21, 1860
11. Ignatius Henry .....	1797	1799

Henry Carbery, an uncle, has in the military register a long list of items. He rose to high rank and among his acquaintances was no less than a general. He was as officer in the American Revolution, the defense against the Indians and the War of 1812.<sup>2</sup> His

On the evening of August 3, 1813, three of the enemy's ships anchored within three miles of Annapolis. Nineteen other vessels stood a short distance below, and distinctly visible from the state house. Every preparation was made for the attack. A large body of military and drafted men with detachments of regulars and volunteers under Col. Henry Carbery were in town."

<sup>2</sup> First Lieut., Hartley's additional Continental regiment, Jan. 13, 1777. Captain, Nov. 30, 1778, of 9th Co. of new regiment, designated Jan. 11, 1779, 11th Pennsylvania Continental Line, Adam Hubley, Lieut.-Col. Commandant. Wounded, Aug. 13, 1779. Retired, Jan. 17, 1781. Senior Captain in the Battalion levies from Maryland for the expedition against the Indians, 1791. Commander, General St. Clair. Captain, U. S. A., March 16, 1792. Assigned to sub. legion, Sept. 4, 1792. Resigned, Feb. 10, 1794. Colonel 36 Inf., March 22, 1813. Resigned, March 4, 1815. Adjutant-General for Maryland.

bravery in the Revolutionary War cost him a severe wound; the musket ball in his side was never extracted.

In the History of Annapolis, Maryland (A. D. 1649-1837, p. 34) is:

Colonel Carbery kept the keys to the local stores of arms and ammunition. When the Virginia Colonel-Commander Minor came with his militia without munitions, an order was given on the armorer, Colonel Carbery, to supply them. A search was in vain for him from early candle light to late in the forenoon the next day, when he was found at the armory. The Colonel, with his usual suavity, apologized for the inconvenience, stating he had left town the evening before and had gone to his seat in the country.<sup>3</sup>

Colonel Carbery had command of the Third Regiment, encamped near Gibson's Spring on the Abraham Young tract, July 4, 1813.<sup>4</sup>

The *National Intelligencer* has, Wednesday, May 29, 1822:

"The demise of this amiable gentleman will be severely felt by the poor of his neighborhood to whose wants he took a peculiar pleasure in ministering every relief within the reach of his means. His philanthropic disposition has been proverbial throughout life, and if a man could be generous to a fault, he lived in error; for whatever he possessed since a boy, seemed but the common property of all who needed assistance. Those too, in better circumstances, who knew him, will feel their loss, for no man ever became acquainted with his character, that did not contract a more than ordinary respect and esteem for him. His manners were fascinating, and he at once discovered the gentleman of inflexible integrity."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Sybilla Carbery, widow of Henry Carbery, who owned the farm, 50A, 2½ miles from Rock Creek, devised it to Thomas Carbery. Will probated May 3, 1840.

<sup>4</sup> "Early Recollection of Washington City," Christian Hines.

<sup>5</sup> Died May 26, 1822.

Henry Carbery, I am credibly told, was of the Pennsylvania soldiers of the American Revolution who thought they should receive their pay. Those with this strange notion already at Philadelphia, reënforced June 20, 1783, by the others from Lancaster, with Carbery as leader, made an army of 250 or 300. The discontents gave expression to their displeasure by rough remarks to congressmen and by display of guns before the windows of Congress. The menace caused Congress to move. And begun, it kept on moving to a full stop. Thus, Henry did his part, an initiatory part, in establishing on the Potomac the permanent seat of the federal government. Henry did his part as stated, as Thomas did his, to wit, firmer establishing the government at Washington by able administration.

Thomas was of the army, too. His official record reads:

“Thomas Carbery, Md. Capt., 36 inf., 30 April, 1813; honorably discharged 15 June, 1815.”

J. Carbery Lay writes:

“While yet a youth his patriotic devotion led him to enter the service of his country in the war of 1812. The President to whom he offered himself personally, so pleased with the manner and bearing of the youthful patriot, at once commissioned him as Captain. . . .”

Captain Carbery was of the defense of his country in this section. And no doubt what there was of it was an active service and the exercise was sufficient to decide him to quit when needed no more. Although, for good, he hung up his cap and sword, he never ceased to wear the title Captain.

Captain Carbery had governmental training. He was a common councilman two terms, June, 1819, to

June, 1821. Apparently his part in the legislative halls created a call for higher honor.

The *National Intelligencer* announced its neutrality in the mayoralty contest, and published the communications in favor of Mr. Carbery's opponent, General Weightman.

The election was held June 4, 1822, and the vote cast :

Thomas Carbery .....	314
R. C. Weightman .....	258
Andrew Way, Jr. ....	101
Richard Bland Lee .....	56
	<hr/> 729

The *Metropolitan and Georgetown National Messenger*, Tuesday, June 4, 1822:

"The election for Mayor of Washington has been more warmly contested than any other within our knowledge; it resulted in the choice of Capt. T. Carbery, by a liberal majority over his opponents."

And, June 6:

"The election in Washington for Mayor, resulting in the choice of Capt. Carbery, must have been very gratifying to his friends as well as to himself. The election being contested with so much spirit and the rival parties each marshaling their forces with such uncommon ardour, proved that a great degree of popularity must have been requisite to have ensured either of the triumph."

The *National Intelligencer*, June 5, says:

"The Mayor of the city is elected for a term of two years, and this was the first occasion on which there had been any competition for the office, since it was made elective by the people, immediately. Mr. Smallwood having come in by general consent, at the first popular election, two years since. It is asserted, however, on respectable authority, that many of the votes received particularly in the First and Second Wards



were manifestly illegal. . . . Much of what is said on the subject we presume may be fairly attributed to the uncommon excitement which has not yet entirely subsided."

On the 11th was the Mayor-elect to have been sworn in before the two Boards. That even was deferred in consequence of the contest arising from the alleged irregularity.

The *National Intelligencer*, Saturday, June 15, says:

"After various propositions and proceedings and each day refusing to admit to the office the gentleman who claimed it, as having the highest vote, the Board of Aldermen adopted yesterday, by a majority of one vote, a resolution, proposing first, that the two Boards forthwith meet and invest Mr. Carbery with the office; and, secondly, that the President of two Boards employ counsel and try, before the Judges of the Circuit Court, the legal right of Mr. C. to the office. Previously to the adoption of this resolution, a pledge was required by the opposing members, and publicly given by two members, friends of Mr. C. and in his name, that, in case the decision of the Judges be against him he will not appeal to the Supreme Court, but will acquiesce in the decision, and forthwith vacate the office. The resolution was concurred in by the other Board, by a large majority, and Mr. Carbery was qualified accordingly, and entered on the duties of his office."

This is an abstract of the judicial proceeding:

“UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT  
THE RELATION OF THE CORPO-  
RATION OF WASHINGTON AND  
ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN  
*Against*

THOMAS CARBERY, who was re-  
turned as Mayor, THOMAS CAR-  
BERY AND OTHERS, Commission-  
ers of the Election in June last  
for the Mayoralty.

“1823, January 8th, Jury sworn a second time.

“9th. Returned the following verdict: ‘The Jury find, that the Election held in June last, in the City of Washington, for Mayor of the said City, was illegally conducted by the absence of one Commissioner, from the 5th Ward; and that, therefore the Election of Thomas Carbery was void.’ ”

On Saturday, January 11, the *National Intelligencer* announced:

“Mr. Carbery is yet Mayor of our City. Though the verdict of the Jury is against him, the Court has not yet delivered its judgment accordingly. We have not heard whether Mr. C. will take an appeal to the Supreme Court.”

Mr. Carbery’s promise to relinquish the honorable office if the Court decided against him, if he made it at all, he forgot; or, if he remembered it, the consequence of turning the government over to the other political side was fraught with such disaster to the city he could not think of such a thing. However, his political opponents did not press the performance of the promise. The case is reported in Cranch’s Circuit Court Reports, 2, 358. The concluding paragraph is:

“Verdict for the relator; who thereupon filed an information in the nature of a *quo warranto*, in the name of the Attorney of the United States, but it was never prosecuted, as the term for which the mayor was elected expired on the first Monday of June, 1824, and it could hardly be expected that the proceedings upon the *quo warranto* would be terminated before that day.”

During the Carbery mayoralty, many years before and many afterward, with great zeal, were celebrated the Birthday Anniversary and Independence Day. A parade there was. Sometimes a prize poem. Always a public dinner, a feast with countless toasts. The Mayor usually presided at the dinner. Captain Car-

bery did during his term, and so courteous and courtly was he, he was impressed into this pleasant presidency out of his term.

Captain Carbery was the chairman of the Fourth of July committee, 1822.

The newspaper account has :

“The City Dinner took place at Strother’s, and was provided with an abundance and taste that did credit to the hotel. The Mayor of the City presided, assisted by Gen. J. P. Van Ness as Vice-President. A respectable number of citizens partook of the feast, amongst whom were all the heads of Departments, and other officers of the government. Most of the representatives of foreign nations, resident here, accepted of the invitation which was given to them, and attended.”

The toasts were thirty-four on this occasion. That by the President of the day—“The plan of our Federal Government—May it be handed down to the latest posterity, in the purity of Republican simplicity.” That to the President of the day—“Our President, and Mayor of the city.—We confidently believe that the discharge of his official duties, in his latter capacity, will be as able and indefatigable as his deportment today has been polite and affable.”

*The Independence Day of 1823.*—Of the committee of arrangements, Thomas Carbery, Esq., was chairman and Alexander Kerr, secretary. Colonel Henry Ashton was the orator, and General John P. Van Ness read the declaration.

In the *National Intelligencer*, Wednesday, June 5, 1822, is the announcement that the offices of the Mayor and the Register are removed to the City Hall, where also the two Boards of the City Council will meet on Monday next and hold their sessions hereafter. At that date the central portion of the original building was complete.

The total vote for the mayoralty was 729. The population of the city according to the census, 1820, was: white, 4,786 males, 4,820 females; slaves, males 880, females 1,065; free colored, 750 males, 946 females; a grand total of 13,247. The tax on real estate was one half of one per cent. on the estimated value, which is on a basis of one half of the existing rate of taxation.

The play during the Carbery mayoralty was well patronized if the sparse population is considered. For in the newspaper is "In consequence of the very great applause with which the 'Wandering Boys' was received, the public are respectfully informed it will be repeated on Saturday evening (July 27, 1822)." A year later (Thursday, September 24) was at Washington Theater, "Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson's Benefit," to conclude with an absurd farce called the "Lady and the Devil." Some of the titles of the plays must have been productive of curiosity, as "Wives as They Were and Maids as They Are" (April 8, 1824). A little while before the Carbery administration this, the Washington Theater, was opened, to wit: August 8, 1821. It was located on the south side of Louisiana Avenue between 4½ and 6th streets, and was known finally as Canterbury Hall. In the square south of the theater was built about the same time the Circus. These places of amusement seated seven to eight hundred respectively.

In the Carbery administration literature flourished in every other form as well as poetry. That reliance may not be entirely upon my say so, I quote a sample:

ON HEARING A LADY PRAISE A CERTAIN REVEREND GENTLEMAN'S EYES.

"I cannot praise the Doctor's eyes,  
I never saw his glance divine;  
For when he prays he shuts *his* eyes,  
And when he preaches he *shuts* mine."

In the Carbery administration was first published the Washington Directory. Date 1822. Compiler, Judah Delano; publisher, William Duncan.

The Sessford Annals (reprinted in Vol. 11 of the Society) begin with the Carbery administration and give the statistics of population and disease and with particularity all improvements, as the number of private buildings, the progress in the construction of public buildings, the streets paved, the water supply extended and nothing is omitted as important as "a steeple has been raised on the Unitarian Church and a Bell placed in it." The Unitarian bell did not ring alone. Its merry cadence was in unison with the Episcopalian bell which began to ring in Mr. Sessford's same paragraph—"a Bell placed in the steeple of St. John's Church." 1822.

During the Carbery administration and the previous and subsequent administrations there was no Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce—not even a citizens' association. Town meetings there were and frequent. At these meetings were discussed national exigencies, strong suggestions given to Congress and almost direction to the Common Council what it should legislate and to the Court what its rules<sup>6</sup> of practice should be. At the town meeting, usually, for each matter were selected a chairman and a secretary and a committee of two from each of the wards. Under date of September 20, 1823, is a report:

"The Committee appointed at a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Washington, held on the 28th day of October last, to take measures to provide a permanent fund for the support of the Washington Female Orphan Asylum, in further discharge of the duty imposed upon them, take this method of apprizing the fellow citizens that, in the month of June last, they ad-

<sup>6</sup> November 13, 1822.

dressed to the Board of Alderman and the Board of Common Council, through the Mayor of the city, a Memorial, of which a copy is subjoined. Their hopes of success in the application were sanguine but they have been disappointed.

"In the Board of Common Council, a decided majority appeared to be opposed to affording any aid to the Institution. A bill actually passed the Board of Alderman, proposing to appropriate two hundred dollars per annum toward the support of the Institution which was decisively rejected by the Board of Common Council.

"WILLIAM HAWLEY, *Chairman*; and

"JOSEPH GALES, JR., *Secretary*."

October 16, 1822, pursuant to public notice a town meeting was held in the City Assembly Room. The Mayor was chairman and John N. Moulder secretary. Dr. Thornton addressed the meeting on the object of the call, the cause of the Greeks. The doctor was a Utopian or whatever he is who schemes to be good to everybody whether he can or not. At an adjourned meeting he proposed a committee from each of the wards to receive subscriptions. The others thought it better not to attempt to give what they had not but to give in abundance what they could—words of encouragement, among which were:

"That they look forward with elated hope to the disenthralment of that fair and famed land, and to the restoration of that People to the privileges of freemen, and to the political eminence which anciently the Grecian States enjoyed."

Another town meeting:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of twelve citizens, two from each Ward, be appointed, to take into consideration the probable effect of certain Rules recently established by the Circuit Court for the County of Washington, in the District of Columbia, in relation to the recovery of debts, upon the rights, the liberties, and interests, of the people of the said County,

and the authority of the said Court to establish the same; together with such other subjects as, in the opinion of the said Committee, may, in any manner, concern the civil and political condition of said people.”

Because of importance I give the next town meeting in full:

“Agreeably to public notice, a Meeting of the Subscribers to a Memorial recently presented to Congress, praying that the Inhabitants of the District of Columbia may be relieved from the disenfranchisement and other grievances under which they now labor was held at the City Hall.

“Richard Bland Lee, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Enoch Reynolds was appointed Secretary.

“The Chairman then made a brief statement of the peculiar and humiliating situation in which the inhabitants of this District were placed, and recommended that a Committee be appointed, to confer with the District Committee of Congress, on the subject of said Memorial, to state to them the wants of this District, and endeavor to procure from Congress the power of self government.

“On motion of Mr. Sweeny, seconded by Mr. R. C. Weightman, Resolved, unanimously, That a committee of thirteen be appointed to take such measures as may appear to them best calculated to promote the objects of a memorial recently presented to the Congress of the United States, on behalf of the people of the District of Columbia, praying for an amelioration of their civil and political condition.

“*Resolved*, That the Chairman be one of said Committee, and that he be requested to appoint the other twelve.

“Committee:

“Richard B. Lee  
Thomas Carbery  
John N. Moulder  
Enoch Reynolds  
Henry Ashton  
Charles Glover  
George Sweeny

“Thomas Law  
Samuel Burch  
Samuel N. Smallwood  
Adam Lindsay  
Edward S. Lewis  
Peter G. Washington.”

It is a roll of honor. Other names are associated with the selection in these parts of the site for the Federal City, but no one had a greater part than Richard Bland Lee, the chairman of the committee.

The second name on the committee is Thomas Carbery. The citizens had preserved to them municipal rights, the right to vote for their lawmakers of minor laws but they had been deprived of the greater rights of citizenship which all of them or, nearly all, had exercised in Maryland or Virginia or another State, that is, to vote for Governor, State Officers, a Representative in Congress and Presidential electors. The citizens of Washington at that time were not in the least satisfied with the lesser rights, even which, at this time, have been entirely withdrawn. The citizens then vehemently protested against the deprivation of the greater. Thomas Carbery was a champion of the principles that representation and taxation are inseparable and that the governed have a reasonable right to a voice in the choice of governors. The Carbery kindred have an inheritance of this manhood. And one of the Carberys, Louis P. Shoemaker, is the most eminent in insistence, eloquent and intelligent, of the right of the citizens to coöperatively act in the governmental affairs.

I applaud the opinion of the Carberys that the vote is productive of pride and promotive of enterprise—important elements of progress in any community.

The Rev. Sydney Smith had the Carbery idea in the *Edinburgh Review*, 1803:

“The only foundation of political liberty is the spirit of the people, and the only circumstance which makes a lively impression upon their senses, and powerfully reminds them of their importance, their power, and their rights, is the periodical choice of their representatives.”



At a town meeting, April 24, 1824, was considered the Memorial of Thomas Law and others on the subject of a national currency. To present it to Congress were delegated Thomas Law, Walter Jones and Elias B. Caldwell. Mr. Law was an economist, a publicist or whatever he is, who prescribes for everybody else. Mr. Law's ability in this line has never had adequate acknowledgment. The memorial aforesaid has an up-to-date sound, and to one who knows nothing about financial questions, the wisdom of recent provisions by the finance wiseacres. Here is a paragraph from the memorial:

"No nation, therefore, can properly be said to be independent, so long as it uses a circulating medium, or instrument of exchange, which, at any time, may be withdrawn from it, at the will and caprice of a foreign nation; or by the complex and irresistible operations of trade, it should be, in other words, a home-money; confined to home-circulation."

The conflagration at New Castle, Delaware, in the newspapers was announced May, 1824. In the capital city was sympathy, that kind which carried with it sacrifice. The Common Councils convened and passed resolutions. As in effect that the Mayor be requested to prepare and transmit an expression "of the strong sympathy felt by the members of the two Boards, collectively and individually." Another:

"*Resolved*, That the Register of the City be, and he is hereby, requested to pay to the Hon. Mr. Van Dyke the sum of one hundred dollars, to be applied, towards the relief of our fellow citizens of New Castle, who have suffered by the late conflagration; and that the amount be charged against the members of the two Boards respectively; that Mr. Van Dyke be requested to present it in their name, with an assurance of their sympathy and an expression of their hope that the offering, though small, will be received in the same spirit of fraternity with which it is tendered. Approved, May 14, 1824."

The election for Mayor, June 7, 1824, was like that of two years previous. It was a close race. The second time Captain Carbery ran slightly behind; the margin was forty or fifty votes. The captain did not complain nor contest. He was manly in defeat.

*“Resolved by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington That the Mayor be and he is hereby requested to ascertain of the Commissioner of Public Buildings what funds he has in his possession applicable to the projections intended to be effected by the Fifteenth section of the present charter of the city, and if any why they have not been thus applied; And if the information thus obtained be not satisfactory, the Mayor is further requested to wait upon the President of the United States and make known to him the desire of the city authorities that the said section of the charter should be carried into operation for the convenience of the Congress of the United States and the advantage of said city.*

*“(Signed) GEORGE WATTERSTON,  
President of the Board  
of Common Council.*

*(Signed) W. W. SEATON,  
President of the Board  
of Aldermen.*

*“Approved this 4th October, 1822.*

*(Signed) THOS. CARBERY, Mayor.”*

*“MAYOR’S OFFICE, CITY HALL, 8 October, 1822.*

*“Sir:—*

*“I herewith enclose to you a copy of a resolution of the City Council approved the 4th instant. The subject is an interesting one to the citizens and I will thank you to give it your early attention and let me hear from you as soon as convenient.*

*“In making the cut for the sewer on the south front of the President’s house a number of cart loads of earth were deposited in and on the edge of the circular road so as to prevent the water from running off. This public thoroughfare is near the greatest quagmire in the city and either you or myself must*

have something done to it soon or it will be impassible during the winter. Col. Lane promised me last winter to have this road repaired, but he neglected to do so; should you not feel yourself authorized to make the road a good one you will at least repair the damage done to it by the deposit of this earth and making the cut through.

"I am with great respect, Sir, your most obedient servant  
"JOS. ELGAR, ESQ., (Signed) THOMAS CARBERY.  
*Commissioner, Public Buldings.*"

"MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL, 27 April, 1824.

"*Sir:—*

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date on the subject of a line of pavement from the Capitol to the Navy Office lately provided for in part, being an Act of Congress, and have only to regret that I cannot at present give you the assurance you seem to require. By an Act of the City Council passed last fall the commission for draining the low grounds are authorized to pave the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue from 2d to 4½ Streets. The Commissioners are not now in funds, but I have no hesitation in believing that the pavement will be made during the present summer.

"Between 4½ Street and the Navy Office there is but one lot (in square 291) which remains to be paved; the front of that square was not authorized by law to be paved in consequence of Travers refusing to sign the application. I am confident, however, that I can prevail on them to have it done, and will use my influence to that effect.

"Let me interest you Sir not to procrastinate the improvement you are authorized to make, because of our inability to keep pace with you. I am deeply interested in the improvement and prosperity of the city, and be assured that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to facilitate the pavement or to coöperate with you in any and everything that may benefit the city.

"I am with great respect, Sir, your obedient servant,  
(Signed) THOMAS CARBERY, *Mayor.*

"To Jos. Elgar, Esq.,  
*Commissioner, Public Buildings.*"

In 1824, according to the mayoral correspondence, the city could boast of a sidewalk on the entire north side of Pennsylvania avenue except in one spot from 4½ to 15th Street. Strides have been made in local improvement as in American things everywhere. When Carbery was a local Solon, that is in 1818, Sydney Smith has this in the *Edinburgh Review*:

“Literature the Americans have none—no native literature, we mean. It is all imported. They had a Franklin, indeed; and may afford to live for half a century on his fame. There is, or was, a Mr. Dwight, who wrote some poems, and his baptismal name was Timothy. There was also a small account of Virginia by Jefferson, and an epic by Joel Barlow; and some pieces of pleasantry by Mr. Irving. But why should the Americans write books, when a six week’s passage brings them, in their own tongue, our sense, science, and genius, in bales and hogsheads? Prairies, steamboats, grist-mills, are their natural objects for centuries to come. Then, when they have got to the Pacific Ocean, epic poems, plays, pleasures of memory, and all the elegant gratifications of ancient people who have tamed the wild earth and sat down to amuse themselves.”

Thirty years from that writing the Americans were building cities on the Pacific and from that writing in three years less than a hundred opened the gate between the oceans and are already entitled to “all the elegant gratifications of ancient people.”

I give John F. Coyle’s account of “The Miracle,” in *The Washington Post*, April 21, 1901. Another account is that of Mr. Kohlman, dated March 15, 1824, in “Historical Sketches of The Ten Miles Square.” The time of the miracle is March 10, 1824.

“A recent pilgrimage to two historic mansions recalls incidents familiar to my boyhood. They were the residences of eminent citizens of Washington, both of whom had been mayors of the city—the mansions of Gen. Van Ness and Capt. Thomas

Carbery, both homes of elegance and refinement, and both hallowed by the lives of two saintly women. Mrs. Van Ness was the founder of the Washington Orphan Asylum, and her life was full of charity, and the other was Mrs. Ann Mattingly, the widowed sister of Capt. Carbery. Her life was one of intense suffering, borne with such Christian resignation and fortitude as won for her such a miraculous intervention and relief as to have become historic in the annals of the Catholic Church.

“Such controversy arose about the marvelous cure of Mrs. Mattingly, that in 1830 Archbishop England, of Charleston, S. C., wrote to the Archbishop of Baltimore, requesting that all who had knowledge of Mrs. Mattingly’s illness and cure should be asked to make deposition of all the facts within their knowledge before judicial authorities. Mrs. Mattingly, when thirty-four years of age, in the summer of 1817, was afflicted with a hard and a deep-seated tumor, the size of a pigeon egg, which upon the slightest pressure gave her great pain. The three medical gentlemen who examined it pronounced it to be of a cancerous nature and recommended an operation. Outward applications and other remedies were used, but the tumor was not dispersed nor the pain allayed by the treatment suggested. No material change took place until the Monday after Easter Monday, 1818, when she was seized with violent sickness.

“After some days her disease assumed a more alarming aspect and another physician was called in consultation. The tumor had become more and more painful. The patient compared her sensations to what she would feel if her side was bored with an auger, pinched with forceps, or cut with sharp instruments. No food could be retained by her, and the internal burning seemed to increase. Her tongue became hard, rough, and dry. . . . Laudanum appeared to afford her more relief than any other remedy, and was given her *ad libitum*. This remedy at length produced no effect, even when administered in large doses.

“From long confinement to a recumbent posture the shoulders and back of the patient became ulcerated, which increased her sufferings, and which required frequent dressings. The

attending physicians, Dr. William Jones, Dr. McWilliams, and Dr. Causin, declared her case out of the reach of medicine, and continued to prescribe only palliatives.

“The Rev. Father Dubuisson,<sup>7</sup> at the suggestion of some of her friends, determined to apply to Prince Hohenlohe, a European healer then in vogue, for his prayers in her favor, as the power granted him from heaven to cure suddenly the diseases beyond the reach of human skill became daily more manifest. She did not ask it. Her resignation was as great as her sufferings were acute. She agreed to it, however, as a means of recovering, in which she was inclined to put great confidence. The Rev. Father Anthony Kohlmann, of Trinity Church, Georgetown, was to write to the Prince. In March, 1823, Capt. Thomas Carbery, the brother of Mrs. Mattingly, and Mayor of Washington, drew up a statement of Mrs. Mattingly’s illness, its origin and progress, which was confirmed by Dr. William Jones her attending physician.

“It was learned from the Rev. John Tissier, vicar general of Baltimore, that he received a letter from Prince Hohenlohe stating that his highness would offer up his mass and prayers on the 10th day of every month at 9 A. M. for the benefit of those persons living out of Europe who wished to unite in prayers with him on the appointed day and hour. The novena—that is, nine days’ devotion in honor of the name of Jesus—began on the 1st day of March so as to conclude previously to the 10th. During the course of the novena, Mrs. Mattingly was desperately ill. Father Dubuisson says in his deposition: ‘I saw her on the 7th and 9th of March, always in bed, and frequently in those fits of coughing, vomiting of blood, and suffering which seemed very much like the last struggles of death. When I left her on the 9th of March, at about half past 10 o’clock at night, she was worse than I had ever seen her, and there was an expression of gloom on the faces of the family.

“‘The time appointed by the prince for persons residing outside of Europe, as before stated, was on the 10th of each month at 9 o’clock A. M. In consequence of the difference in

<sup>7</sup> Stephen Larigaudelle Duboisson, S. J.

longitude between this country and Germany 3 o'clock after midnight was about the corresponding time to 9 o'clock in the morning at Hamburg, where the prince resided. I therefore requested the family and friends to be up and at prayers before 2 o'clock. I celebrated mass at 2 o'clock at St. Patrick Church and afterward carried the blessed sacrament to Mrs. Mattingly at her brother's (Capt. Carbery) house. On my arrival she was in the same state of extreme weakness and suffering, and the paroxysm of her cough, which came on, made it almost apprehensive lest she should be prevented from receiving the communion, but it proved to be of very short duration. This was the hour of expectation. I disposed everything according to the rites of the church. A small towel was put under her chin; she made an effort to aid in fixing it, but found herself unable to lift her arm. I addressed her with a very words of encouragement, telling her the best possible exhortation for her was the very letter to Prince Hohenlohe, which I read to her. I then gave her the holy communion.

" 'There was some consecrated host left in the pix. I turned, wrapped the whole, gave the usual blessing to the family (there were five or six persons in the room, relatives and friends), and knelt down before the blessed eucharist previous to taking it with me on retiring, when behold! Mrs. Mattingly fetches a deep sigh, rises slowly to a sitting posture, stretches her arm forward, joins her hands, and exclaims with a firm but somewhat weak voice: "Lord Jesus, what have I done to deserve so great a favor?" The emotions, the affright of the persons in the room, were betrayed by the sobs, tears and half-suppressed shrieks. I arose with a thrill through my whole frame and stepped to the bedside. She grasped my hand. "Holy father," she cried out, "what can I do to acknowledge such a blessing?" My spontaneous expressions were: "Glory be to God! We may say so!" I then bade her say what she felt. "Not the least pain left." "None there?" I said, pointing to her breast. "Not the least; only some weakness," was her answer.'

"Father Dubuisson made his attestation of these facts before John N. Moulder, justice of the peace, on the 17th of March, 1824.

"The Rev. Father Matthews testified before James Hoban, justice of the peace, on the 29th of November, 1824: "'During the course of the painful and long-contracted malady Mrs. Mattingly appeared to suffer more than I thought a mortal frame could endure with a heroic fortitude and edifying resignation. I never heard her utter a complaint, and she never showed any solicitude to regain her health. Her prayer, as she told me, was that the will of God might be done in her.

" 'I visited Mrs. Mattingly on the 9th of March, to hear her confession, preparatory to her going to communion in the morning, the 10th of March. While I remained near her she appeared to suffer the most excruciating pains and cramps.

" 'Her voice was very low—hardly audible. They moistened her lips and tongue four or five times while I remained with cold water in a teaspoon. I proposed to give her some laudanum, but her sister said she had taken 350 drops during the day and evening. I left her about 10:30 o'clock, apparently in the jaws of death. The Rev. Mr. Dubuisson, who had said mass and gave her communion at little after 4 o'clock, hurried back to inform me that she had been instantaneously restored to perfect health after receiving the blessed sacrament. I went down to Capt. Carbery's to view the astonishing event. When I arrived Mrs. Mattingly opened the door, and with a smiling countenance, shook my hand heartily. Although prepared for this meeting, I could not suppress my astonishment at the striking contrast produced in her person in a few hours; my mind had for years associated death and her pale, emaciated face; a thrilling awe pervaded my whole frame. From that day to the present Mrs. Mattingly assures me she has enjoyed perfect health.' "

"The deposition of Capt. Thomas Carbery was made before Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall and confirms and repeats all that has been said by the Rev. Father Matthews and the Rev. Father Dubuisson.

" . . . Dr. N. P. Causin, Dr. George A. Carroll, Dr. Thomas C. Scott, all testified that her condition was hopeless and her recovery beyond medical aid. Mr. Louis Carbery, of Georgetown, her brother, testified before Justice James S. Morsell, of



the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, as did Rev. Joseph Carbery, of St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Md., and James M. Williams. The Rev. Father Kohlmar testified before William Thornton, justice of the peace; Mr. George Sweeny, before R. C. Weightman, justice of the peace. Numerous friends, men and women, testified similarly."<sup>8</sup>

Captain Carbery in 1818 bought at the southwest corner of C and Seventeenth streets. He built that year a substantial brick residence. In 1831, he added to his domain. The flowers of the garden—rose, lilac, geranium and honeysuckle—vied with the trees of the orchard—peach, pear and plum, apple and cherry—in making the domain a paradise. The Captain's home is no more and its site and that of the Continental Hall, the national home of the Daughters of the American Revolution, are the same.

Immediately south was the Mansion Square, enclosing the mansion of General John Peter Van Ness and Mrs. Van Ness, she who was Marcia Burnes, the daughter of David Burnes, the original proprietor, and the ancient cottage wherein she was born.

Immediately south of Mansion Square were the wide waters of the mouth of Tiber Creek and a wharf. The Commissioners built it. Much of the material used in the construction of the President's House was there landed.

James Croggon says:

"The Wharf, early in the century, under the management of Thomas Carbery, became known by his name, and well down to the civil war it was of some commercial importance. In the twenties it was a landing point for the Alexandria steamers, and good-sized vessels used the wharf, but with the gradual filling up of the river the vessels became smaller."

<sup>8</sup> "My uncle, Genl. Henry Carbery, . . . predicted and often said, within a year or two before his death that my sister, Mrs. Ann Mattingly, then labouring under the pain of a devouring cancer, was reserved and kept alive, by Divine Providence for some great purpose."

Thomas Carbery was born in St. Mary's County, June 26, 1791. He was of the eleven children, the eighth in order of birth. He was a lad of eighteen when with his parents he came to new Federal city. I approach the event of his thirty-fifth year. His household had been his maiden sisters, Ruth and Catharine or "Kitty" and his widowed sister, Ann. It is only to look upon his photographed person to see he was tall and straight. He was of a hundred; yes, more than that for attractive looks. With admiring eyes and wistful hearts—how many of the fair—but it is history I am writing and not sentiment. I guess he tarried in bachelorhood that he might save general disappointment.

"Married in November's mist  
Love your wedding ring has kissed."

It was November the 2d, 1826, Thursday evening, he married Mary H. Manning, of Loudoun county, Virginia. The good Father Matthews officiated. Their united life was happy and yet saddened by frequent death. Mrs. Carbery died November 8, 1834. The extended obituary begins:

"In the bloom of life, for she had not yet attained her thirtieth year; in the midst of a family loving and beloved; surrounded by all that sweetens and gladdens human existence, the subject of this obituary had much to induce her to ask for a prolongation of her days, and the continuation of her earthly abidance." *The National Intelligencer*, November 11, 1834.

The children, four, were called soon; none completed ten years of life. Seventeen years from the nuptial ceremony, of the family, the Captain was the survivor.

Captain Carbery served frequently as foreman of the grand jury.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Daily National Intelligencer*, September 4, 1850.



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS CARBERY.

Captain Carbery could have bowed to the salutation of Judge for he was a Justice of the Peace. "Equal and exact justice to all men" must he have dispensed. His impartiality has proof in his long and almost uninterrupted service—forty-odd years. His appointments are dated (March 1) 1820, 1825, 1830, 1836, 1843, 1849, 1852, 1855, 1858 and 1861.

Captain Carbery during his mayoralty was ex-officio chairman of the Board of Commissioners instituted by Congress to aid the corporation in draining the low grounds on and near the public reservations and improve and ornament certain parts of them.

Captain Carbery was the Collector of Customs or Collector of the Port from some time before 1827 to some time after 1834. Exactly when and how long like Matthew he sat at the receipt of custom the writer knoweth not.

Captain Carbery was a Commissioner of the Washington Canal for a term which included the years 1843 and 1846. The date limits of this service I cannot give. A detailed description of the canal is in the so-called "Webb's History of Washington." The enthusiasts of the earliest days conceived the utilization of the Tiber and another stream for water traffic. It was built with high hope of commercial success. It was built at great cost, hard obtained. It was next to nothing for commercial use for the city had next to no commerce. As the years rolled by the waters grew more stagnant. In the sultry days it made chills and fever, and in the wintry days made a fairly good skating rink. It was arched and from an open sewer was converted into a covered one.

That "he shall live no longer in monument than the bell rings, and the widow weeps" is not so of Captain Carbery. "Thomas Carbery" is on the inscription on

copper plate covering deposit-recess of the corner stone of the monument. Captain Carberry was of the original organization of the "Washington National Monument Society," October 31, 1833. The officers were: John Marshall, President; William Cranch, first Vice-President; John P. Van Ness, second Vice-President; William W. Seaton, third Vice-President; Samuel H. Smith, Treasurer; George Watterston, Secretary. The board of trustees were: Gen. Thomas S. Jesup, Col. James Kearney, Col. Nathan Towson, Col. Archibald Henderson, Matthew St. Claire Clark, John McClelland, Thomas Munroe, Col. George Bomford, Roger C. Weightman, Péter Force, William Brent, Wm. A. Bradley, Thomas Carbery.

He signed the address, 1846, to the public advising it of the delay because of the failure of Congressional action in appropriating the site on the wall—also advising it of arrangement for receiving contributions.

The building committee was appointed soon after the laying of the corner stone, July 4, 1848. Capt. Carbery was chairman and the others were Wm. A. Bradley and George Watterston. Further on John J. Abert was added to the committee. The duties of the committee were:

"The purchase of materials and the general construction of the Monument, embracing the employment of labor, skilled and common."

Here is a part of a letter of the chairman:

"Eight or ten days before . . . the laying of the corner stone we had an assemblage, by invitation, of twelve or fifteen of the most scientific gentlemen we could collect to make a last examination of the foundation. Among the gentlemen were Mr. Mills, architect of the Monument; Messrs. Renwick and Cameron, architect and builder, respectively, of the Smith-

sonian Institution, and others. On this occasion the most thorough examination was made, and every man expressed the fullest confidence in the foundation, and they declared that it could not be better. The building committee were fully aware of the great responsibility resting upon them in this matter, and . . . they spared no pains in procuring the best foundation for the Monument. . . . If, after all these precautions, any settling should take place, no blame can certainly attach to the building committee; but we do not apprehend any such calamity."<sup>10</sup>

Captain Carbery was an incorporator under an Act of Congress, February 22, 1859.

The practical part of Capt. Carbery in the erection of the magnificent memorial must have given him pride. Nothing before his front door broke the view of it. The shadow of the proud temple all but reached that door. In the Captain's time the height was 156 feet; that height is plainly marked.

*Daily National Intelligencer*, September 13, 1850:

WASHINGTON, September 6, 1850.

I have noticed a statement in various newspapers in relation to the marble now being used for facing the Washington National Monument, which is calculated to mislead the public in regard to the durability and fitness of it for that purpose. Previous to the marble being adopted by the Board of Managers, Thomas Carbery, Esq., Chairman of the Building Committee, and myself, visited the quarries for the purpose of examining it. Large masses of the marble were found projecting above the earth, and, in one instance, covering a space of over one hundred square feet, which had been exposed to the action of the elements for ages. The surface of these was irregular and discolored from the dripping of water and earth over them, but, from cutting less than half an inch into it, its texture was found to be perfectly firm and solid, quite as

<sup>10</sup> "History of the Washington National Monument and Washington National Monument Society," Frederick L. Harvey.

little injured by time and weather as any of the Pennsylvania quarries.

WM. DOUGHERTY,

*Superintendent W. N. Monument.*

Captain Carbery was the third President of The Bank of the Metropolis, now The National Metropolitan Bank. He was elected February 5, 1855, and died in office. The Captain had been continuously a director in the bank from a time antedating 1843.

Mary Carbery, the Captain's sister, and the first born, was a Carmelite nun, "Sister Eleanora of St. Francis." In Baltimore, she died, in the eighty-sixth year of her age and forty-seventh of her religious profession.

Martha was the wife of Salvadore Catalana. He was the Greek interpreter and pilot of the captured Tripolitan ketch renamed the *Intrepid*. By his aid Lieut. Commandant Decatur reached the American frigate *Philadelphia* and recaptured it. The exploit made Decatur a hero. Mrs. Catalana, who survived her husband, died at the Captain's. Between Mrs. Decatur and the Carberys at Georgetown was intimacy.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Daily National Intelligencer*, March 10, 1855. Short obituary.

"NAVY YARD, Washington, Dec. 19, 1825.

"The subscriber certifies, that he was attached to the American squadron in the Mediterranean, as pilot on board of the frigate *Constitution*, commanded by Commodore Preble; that he was sent in the ketch *Intrepid*, to pilot her into the harbor of Tripoli, for the purpose of destroying the frigate *Philadelphia*, then in possession of the Tripolitans; that owing to his perfect acquaintance with the harbor of Tripoli, or his personal knowledge of the people and their language, the ketch was permitted to come alongside of the *Philadelphia*, that he is, and always was, of the opinion, that in the state of mind at the time, and his knowledge of the current and the soundings of the harbor, that the ship might have been brought out with safety, had not orders been peremptorily given to destroy her; that he gave this opinion to Commodore Decatur who was only prevented by his orders from making the attempt; that all the nautical men with whom he has conversed on the subject, and to whom he has explained the grounds of his opinion, have acknowledged the correctness of his statements.

"SALVADORE CATALANA."

The Captain's sisters, Ruth and Catharine, with whom he passed all his days, with unperceived decay glided into serene old age. Ruth was in her ninetieth and Catharine in her ninety-first year when the summons came.

Ann, the miraculously healed, died at the residence of her son-in-law, Richard Lay, aged seventy-three years. The Captain was at her funeral, March 10, 1855, exactly thirty-one years after the event. He writes of another, surely a minor miracle:

"She was again cured, by a miracle, of a sore foot, from sprain, on the 1st of Jany, 1831, while making a Retreat at the Visitation Convent in Geo. Town D. C."

Joseph entered Georgetown College, a student, 1811, and was ordained a priest, 1814. He was assigned, 1816, to St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Of the archives of the college is a letter dated 1828 from Lieutenant Turnbull to Father Carbery, and a letter from Edward Coad, giving interesting anecdotes of him. Of the archives, also, is the letter of the Father, relative to the old guns from the fort at St. Mary's, the first capital of Maryland. The river dug away the fort and swallowed its guns. Captain Carbery raised them. They are at Annapolis except two in front of the main building of the Georgetown University. He died at St. Inigoes. The Captain of him writes:

"He had been the Superior and Pastor of that place for more than thirty years and was greatly respected and beloved by all who knew him. A more kind, hospitable and generous man is seldom met with—and his manner was uncommonly winning and pleasant."

James was a naval architect and had charge of the timber of ship-building at the Washington Navy Yard. He married, in 1820, Emza Cloud, the daughter of the



milller, of whom more further on. He lived in a mansion at the N.W. corner of South Carolina Avenue and 6th Street, S.E. He was of the original members of St. Peter's Church. He was a local legislator, 1826 to 1839, except 1833—a Common Councilman. The last six years he rapped to order with the gavel and decided parliamentary motions exactly where now the learned Supreme Judges, wrapped in flowing silk, deal with the litigants and lawbreakers.

Lewis was a civil engineer and remembered as the Surveyor of the County of Washington. He was the President of the Levy Court. He was long invested with the judicial powers of a justice of the peace. He lived in Georgetown. He married, September 7, 1817, the miller's daughter, Artemisia. The miller was Abner Cloud, the son of Amos. These Clouds were Scotchmen and knew more than the highroads that lead to England and bought long along the shores of the Potomac above Georgetown. The antiquity of Abner's mill is indicated by his lease of it in 1797. The old stone mill has long since ground the last grist—it is in ruins. The wheel is gone, the brook is slow and the bay which was the shipping port is shallow. (The mill is in the lowlands on the east side and directly opposite that picturesque place on the palisades, the country-seat of William F. Roberts, Esq., of appropriate name, Glenmoore.) The Carbery meadows belong to the Carberys to this day.

Captain Carbery was strong in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church as were all his kin.<sup>12</sup> He was generally generous. However, his largest gifts were to Catholic institutions. The Saint Vincent's Orphan

<sup>12</sup> "My aunt Elizabeth was a Carmelite Nun and died in the Monastery of Mt. Carmel in Charles Co., Md., in the year 1813. Aged about sixty-nine."

Asylum, organized in 1825, and incorporated by Act of Congress, February 25, 1831,<sup>13</sup> was from the beginning the recipient of his benefactions. It is said that the original building on the west side of Tenth between F and G Streets was built by his funds almost altogether.<sup>15</sup> When I was a youth in the tax office, on the Asylum's affairs, came the Rev. Father White, the pastor of St. Patrick's. Father White was a wee man who knew exactly what he wanted without being told. Of him, a parishioner of his told me, he had bought of Mr. Hume something which came in what might hold creature comfort. The father was on the steps of the rectory with three ladies when the man was bringing up a demijohn. Commanded the father: "Take the vinegar to the basement."

Captain Carbery was a Democrat. Any suggestion of deviation from the Democratic creed was to him a temptation to heresy. The Captain's democracy was like unto that related by his pastor, the Rev. Mr. Matthews. He asked a Louisiana Congressman if he objected to his son being a Catholic. The fiery Southerner, bringing down his cane with a resounding whack, exclaimed, "No, I don't object to his changing his religion if it will make him a better man but, if I ever hear of him wanting to be anything but a good Democrat, by George, Sir, I'll disown him."<sup>15</sup>

Captain Carbery and William H. Ward were the executors of the estate of Father Matthews. The captain was the guardian of Madame Iturbide, wife of the Emperor of Mexico.

<sup>13</sup> (Rev.) William Matthews, (Rev.) Matthew Deagle, Peter S. Shriber, Thomas Carbery, William Hickey, incorporators.

<sup>14</sup> *The Washington Post*, June 30, 1901. "History of St. Patrick's Parish," by Milton E. Smith.

<sup>15</sup> Virginia King Frye.

I was told that the Captain was of that brand of patriots known as Copperheads. Diametrical is the statement of J. Carbery Lay written a few days, June 5, 1863, after the Captain's death and during the internecine struggle:

"Naturally a patriot and thoroughly imbued with the blessings of a free and united Republic, it is not strange that his whole heart revolted at the thought of secession, and spurning alike the open and covert traitor, his whole nature bitterly denounced 'the fiends who lit the torch of civil war.'"

An "old-timer" in *The Evening Star*, November 25, 1899, says:

"Captain Carbery was the president of the Bank of the Metropolis, now the National Metropolitan Bank. . . . Strangely, Mr. Webb omits all reference to him in the chapter on banking in his history of Washington; yet no man was better known in his day."

The benevolence of the Captain must have come to the old-timer's memory and caused on his part the general observation:

"The social conditions prevailing at the period of which I write were much different from those prevailing now. Then the rich and the poor lived together, and there was a tacit admission that the Lord was father of them all. The humblest man was not beneath the notice of his rich neighbor, nor was he permitted to suffer when overtaken with adversity."

It is disclosed in a communication to the Columbia Historical Society by almost exact phraseology that the old-timer is the late George C. Henning. Mr. Henning in the communication says:

"When quite a child I visited his house several times in company with the widow of his brother James who lived in a part of the mansion (Notley Young mansion) with us. We

were usually received in his library, which was in the second story back, where I saw more books than I had previously seen in all my life.

“Captain Carbery must have been somewhat of an naturalist, as the bottoms and tops of his book-case were filled with sea-shells and innumerable bugs were pinned to the wooden cases.”

The captain was not one of those who are dead while living. He was alive right up to the last day of living. He was up-to-date to the minute from the tie of his crinkling cravat to the shining buckles of his shoes. The captain very likely never read Sir Jonah Barrington’s observation:

“Let any gentleman find himself with dirty Boots, old Surtout, soiled Neckcloth and a general negligence of Dress, he will, in all probability find a corresponding disposition by negligence of *address*.”

Now the captain had a pleasing address and from qualities innate besides the influence which the art of the tailor and the poetry of the haberdasher give. It is real history, the authenticated statement is in the Museum of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants:

“Captain Carbery had seven pair of boots all made by different shoemakers and wore one pair every day of the week.”

It was not with him as with King James: “Old friends are best”; and the king called for “his old shoes, they were easiest for his feet.” With him it was the principle, greater variety is greater life.

The captain was dignified and heavy. His head was crowned with luxuriant white. His features were strong. They spoke character. His mouth showed positiveness. The bounds of his lips were creases which turned down. His collar was high up and was wrapped in folds about the neck. His eyes were large

and piercing and from his collar the captain seemed to be peering over a battlement. With his velvet-collared coat and collared waistcoat, his high hat in one hand and great cane in the other, seated in photographer's chair of state, he looks kingly. But said to me Mr. James Croggon: "Captain Carbery was not the stately gentleman shown in his picture. He was genial; he was not above speaking to anyone; he was choice in his language; he was willing to hear and willing to learn. He was square-built, near five feet ten, and weighed about two hundred. He was the president of the bank and came in frequently to talk with its depositor, Mr. Bushrod W. Reed, who had his store on F Street and whose clerk I was from 1856 to 1860."

The Bible of the captain is in the possession of Colonel Richard G. Lay. It is that of his faith and he has dated it, 1826. In it he has made a genealogical record with comment. His writing shows care; his wording culture. Colonel Lay has given me access to this precious book and without his courtesy this paper would have been much less worthy of your attention.

The captain was well-to-do; his wealth, as his time went, grew. Of his large and valuable realty holdings was the old Notley Young mansion, in his time the oldest in the city. He acquired the country home of Daniel Carroll the city commissioner. The captain named his rural retreat Norway, a name suggested by the cool shade. The diversity of nature within the broad acres of Norway suggested to him for spots appropriate designations, as St. Anthony's Falls, Mt. Ether, Walnut Valley, Grotto Galypso, Big Chestnuts, Pennyroyal Plains, Indian Springs. Norway was on the Seventh street pike, a little north of Brightwood. The mansion was destroyed by the guns of Fort Stevens. Back of the mansion and beyond the spring

housed in stone is a brook, the crystal waters of which dash over and glide around big boulders in their rush to reach Rock Creek. Along the banks are tulip trees and the other splendid fellows of the forest and moor, the beautiful beeches whose smooth gray bark records associated initials more enduring than the affection that prompted their carving. The newspaper that had the headlines announcing something serious at Vicksburg announced the death of the captain. A year after his death his farm was a scene of conflict. It was the position of the Confederates. The wreck of a great tree close to the mansion there is. It is denuded of all bark and although it is without a coat to tell its kindred, those who are superior in tree knowledge according to their respective knowledge know it to be a butternut, a poplar and an oak. The tree bears the legend:

“Used as a Signal Station by the Confederate Soldiers under Gen. Early During the Attack on Washington, July 11 and 12, 1864. Also occupied by Confederate sharp-shooters.”

The captain's country-seat is now the Walter Reed General Hospital.

The captain some way had advertised to the birds:

“He therefore makes all birds of every sect  
Free of his farm, with promise to respect  
Their several kinds alike, and equally protect.”

—Dryden.

The captain's farm was the birds' metropolis. There they made their home without regard to race, color or limitation. There it was that John Burroughs, beginning with 1863, made long calls on the birds and became intimately acquainted with that linguist, the chat, that expert whistler, the cardinal grosbeak, that musical prodigy, the catbird, with the water and the wood thrush, with the blue yellow-black, the chestnut-sided,

the Blackburnian, the Kentucky, the Maryland yellow-throat, and all the other warblers in their directory. Mr. Burroughs in 1868, to make himself a saint with the Audubon Society, wrote of this bird association and at the same time to make himself a prophet wrote:

“There is, perhaps, not another city in the Union that has on its very threshold so much natural beauty and grandeur, such as men seek for in remote forests and mountains. A few touches of art would convert this whole region, extending from Georgetown to what is known as Crystal Springs,<sup>16</sup> not more than two miles from the present State Department, into a park unequaled for anything in the world. There are passages between these two points as wild and savage, and apparently as remote from civilization, as anything one meets with in the mountain sources of the Hudson or the Delaware.”

Captain Carbery died May 23, 1863.

*The National Intelligencer*, May 25, has:

“Thomas Carbery, Esq., one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Washington, died at his residence on Seventeenth street, on Saturday evening, last. Capt. Carbery was at the time of his death President of the Bank of the Metropolis. He was in the seventy-fourth year of his age. His funeral will take place from St. Patrick’s Church, F street, on Tuesday morning, the 26th instant, at 10 o’clock, A. M. Requiem Mass will be celebrated.”

The funeral service of Mr. Carbery was conducted by the Rev. Father Walter. The pallbearers were Hugh B. Sweeny, William B. Todd, Nicholas Callan, Philip R. Fendall, John Carroll Brent, William Flaherty, Lewis Johnson and Dr. William Jones. The attendance was large and without distinctive religious leaning. Of it were the members of the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council, His Honor Richard Wallach, the Mayor,

<sup>16</sup> Crystal Springs, 3½ miles from the city on the Piney Branch Road. H. F. Turner & Co., Proprietors. Adv. *The Evening Star*, 1863.

and Mr. William Dixon, the Collector of Taxes. And of it were the children of the St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, of which he had been a liberal patron. On the casket was a cross of japonicas—flower emblem of his character, excellence; emblem of his devotion, Christianity. The interment was at St. Patrick's Cemetery. That cemetery has been erased. Thomas Carbery, he rests in peace at Mount Olivet.

“BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Monday 25, 1863.

“The Chair also laid before the Board a communication from the Mayor in relation to the death of ex-Mayor Thomas Carbery; which was ordered to be published with the proceedings of the Board. It is as follows:

“MAYOR'S OFFICE, May 25, 1863.

“TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN AND BOARD OF COMMON COUNCIL:

“*Gentlemen:* It is my melancholy duty to inform you of the demise of Ex-Mayor Thomas Carbery, which occurred in the seventy-fourth year of his age, at his late residence in this city, on Saturday, the 23d instant, and suggest such public tribute to his memory as may be proper for his long, able, and faithful services to his country in the war of 1812 as captain in the regular army, and to this city as a member of its Councils and Chief Magistrate from 1822 to 1824.

“Though none had the good fortune to be associated with him in his administration of our city's affairs, many of us had the pleasure of an intimate personal intercourse—all the opportunity of forming an estimate of his character, public and private; and I am confident no one will more deeply deplore the loss to our community than yourselves.

“I shall be ready to unite with you in any sentiments of respect appropriate to the occasion.

“Very respectfully,

RICHARD WALLACH, *Mayor.*”

Mr. Pepper, in connection with the same subject, introduced joint resolutions in relation to the death of



ex-Mayor Thomas Carbery, which were read three times and passed.

The estate is estimated to have been two hundred thousand dollars. He gave \$2,500 to each of his sisters, Ruth and Catherine, and the family residence. He made several minor charitable bequests. Of the balance of his estate he created a Charity Fund. He says: "This Charity Fund will be very large" and directs his executors to invest and dispose of for the benefit of the Saint Vincent's Orphan Asylum. The heirs thought that either charity begins nearer home or the beneficiary already enjoyed sufficiently his donations and they promptly instituted an Equity Cause (No. 37) for annulment. The Asylum promptly proposed an acceptable compromise. It took \$15,000.

The Mayors of Washington, Carbery and the others, appear large men with small affairs. They with the means at hand were laying the foundations of a structure of world-wide admiration.